

Amendment to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 1, line 12, with the following corrected paragraph:

1 The pre-processing stage places the input audio signal into a
2 form that better facilitates feature extraction. The feature-extraction stage
3 differs widely from algorithm to algorithm, but commonly-used features
4 include (1) energy, either full-band, multi-band, low-pass, or high-pass, (2)
5 zero crossings, (3) the frequency-domain shape of the signal, (4)
6 periodicity measures, and (5) statistics of the speech and background
7 noise. The thresholds comparison stage then uses the selected features
8 and various thresholds of their values to determine if speech is present in
9 or absent from the input audio signal. This usually involves use of some
10 "hold-over" algorithm, or "on"-time minimum threshold, to ensure that
11 detection of either presence or absence of speech lasts for at least a
12 minimum period of time and does not oscillate on-and-off.